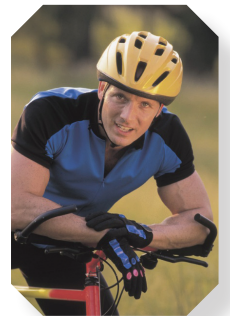
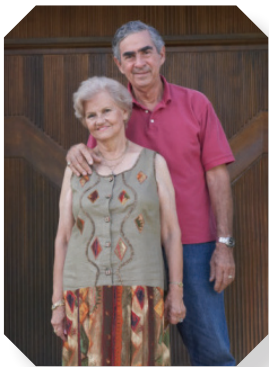

The Harford County
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

ANNUAL SPOTLIGHT 2009



DAVID R. CRAIG
HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Harford County
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



-Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future-



MARY F. CHANCE
DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF
COMMUNITY SERVICES

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The Harford County Department of Community Services works daily to connect people to the resources they need. Community Services' staff strive to meet the needs of our seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and those struggling to overcome addiction, homelessness and conflict.

THE DEPARTMENT CONTAINS FIVE DIVISIONS

Office on Aging
Community Development
Office of Drug Control Policy
Office of Human Relations
Harford Transit



The Office on Aging provides information and assistance to older adults and their caregivers to enable them to remain independent with an enhanced quality of life. The Office on Aging also runs six senior activity centers throughout Harford County.

Community Development encourages and contributes to the development of healthy, productive, and self-sustaining communities throughout Harford County by creating partnerships with municipalities, public agencies, civic and community members to identify and begin to address the needs of the citizens and the communities that live within.

The Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) promotes and provides prevention services through strategies utilizing the resources of public/private agencies and citizens. By spreading the word and maintaining a visible presence in the community, ODCP is working daily as the voice of a drug-free Harford County.

The Office of Human Relations supports the Human Relations Commission, a group of 15 volunteer citizens dedicated to “alleviating social problems and promoting equality, understanding and harmonious relations between the citizens of the county.” Members of the Commission are selected to represent all segments of the county population.

Harford Transit is Harford County’s public bus service and operates nine fixed routes serving Aberdeen, Abingdon, Bel Air, Edgewood, Havre de Grace, Joppatowne and points in between. Service operates Monday through Friday.

OUR COMMISSIONS: CONTINUOUSLY AT WORK

The Harford County Commission on Disabilities works to ensure that people with disabilities are afforded the same rights, services and opportunities as people without disabilities. [Learn more...](#)

The Harford County Commission for Women works to promote the economic, social and political equality of women and strives to be the visible resource for women in Harford County. [Learn more...](#)

The Harford County Human Relations Commission works to alleviate social problems and promote equality, understanding and harmonious relations between the citizens of the county. [Learn more...](#)

The Harford County Community Mediation Commission works to improve the quality of life in Harford County by providing accessible, expedient, and affordable alternative dispute resolution that fosters better communication between citizens and enables self-determined resolutions to conflict between citizens. [Learn more...](#)

MEETING THE NEEDS OF HARFORD COUNTY'S MOST VULNERABLE

Office on Aging

Guardianship Program

From 2005 to 2007, 38,000 people (16%) in Harford County were age 60 and over. The number of senior citizens in Harford County is expected to grow significantly over the next 10 years. By 2020, nearly 43,000 people in Harford County will be age 65 and over.

Older adults who are no longer able to make decisions on their own medical care and needs are placed in the Office on Aging's Guardianship Program. The Office on Aging is appointed by the courts to make decisions in the absence of a qualified caregiver. Many of our guardianship clients do not have visitors or loved ones who remember special occasions, such as birthdays. Recently, seniors at the McFaul Activities Center have begun reaching out with great compassion to guardianship clients by sending cards, letters and small gifts to brighten the day - making sure no senior in need feels forgotten or alone. [Read more about the Office on Aging.](#)



Community Development

Shelter from the Storm

Homeless citizens in our community are among the most vulnerable citizens we strive to serve. They struggle with multiple barriers, which impede their ability to meet their own needs at every level. Many are physically, emotionally, and/or mentally disabled, and because of this, are more susceptible to becoming victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation. As a partner in our community's continuum of care, we provide financial support to many of the programs serving the homeless in Harford County. [Learn more about Community Development.](#)

Shelter from the Storm was created in early 2009 and is a group of non-profits, government agencies and religious organizations working together to address the needs of the homeless and at-risk populations in Harford County. A series of conferences will be conducted to create long term, innovative partnerships for the purpose of expanding the transitional housing capacity in our county. Currently, five area agencies, along with the Department of Community Services are working together to serve the homeless through this program: Alliance, Anna's House, Faith Communities & Civic Agencies United, Inc., Harford County Department of Social Services, and Harford Family House, Inc.



Office of Drug Control Policy

Mentoring

Harford County's youth, age 10 to 19, represent 15%, or nearly 36,000, of the population. Youth are impressionable and more vulnerable to peer pressure; a child who is mentored is 46% less likely to use illegal drugs; 27% less likely to use alcohol; 54% less likely to skip school; is more confident of their performance in schoolwork; and gets along better with their families.

Recognizing this, ODCP's Kids C.A.N. program (Caring Adult Network of mentors) paired with Across Ages, and with the help of 185 community volunteers, mentored nearly 200 local children through a school and community-based drug prevention program targeting youth age 9-13. The unique and highly effective feature of Across Ages is the pairing of older adult mentors (55+) with young adolescents.



PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY

Commission on Disabilities

Career Expo: Hiring People with Disabilities

From 2005 to 2007, of the Harford County population age five years and over, 5.8% had one type of disability, and 6.5% had two or more types of disabilities. The unemployment rate for persons with a disability was higher than for those without any disability. In March 2009, those respective rates were 13.1% compared to 8.9%.



To mark National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Commission partnered with the Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Community Services' Employment Readiness Program, and other private and public agencies, to sponsor the first annual Career Expo in October 2008. This successful event provided more than 200 job-seekers with disabilities the opportunity to meet face-to-face with employers. The 2nd annual Career Expo will be held on October 8, 2009 and was awarded funding by the Maryland Department of Disabilities. [Learn more about the Commission on Disabilities.](#)

Commission on Disabilities

Disabled Parking Awareness Campaign

Working with the Harford County Sheriff's Office, the Commission undertook a month-long campaign where Sheriff Deputies placed increased emphasis on checking handicapped parking places to ensure that drivers displayed the accessible (handicapped) parking placard or had the designated license plates and, when appropriate, asked drivers to produce medical certification. The Commission and the Sheriff's Office issued press releases with information on the law, using accessible parking places, and reminding business owners that "Accessibility is Good Business." The campaign was such a success that it will be repeated during the 2009 holiday shopping season.



Office of Drug Control Policy

Building Opportunity

In 2009 ODCP personnel trained inmates to identify errors in their thinking and behavior modification through critical thinking and assessment. ODCP partnered with the Harford County Sheriff's Office and Harford Habitat for Humanity to create an inmate



training program for low-risk offenders designed to provide job and life skills training. The 16-week program “Building Opportunity” taught the inmates hands-on construction skills at the Harford Habitat build site in Aberdeen and assisted ex-offenders with reentry into the Harford County community. The four inmates who completed the program each had obtained employment when they were released from the detention center.

Harford Transit **Creating New Freedom**

Nearly 5,000 households (5.3%) in Harford County do not have a vehicle. Harford Transit works daily to provide bus service to those in need, as well as create an alternative method of travel to those who wish to help the environment and save on gas costs associated with their private vehicles.



Harford Transit proudly announced the New Demand Response service, with evening hours offered Monday through Friday from 4-9 pm, offering more people with transportation options. The service exists in Aberdeen, Havre de Grace, parts of Bel Air and Edgewood, and the area in-between; eligible persons include senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income wage earners. The new service began with only five customers in December 2008 and by the second quarter grew to 320 passengers.

Harford Transit **Expanding Fleet**

Harford County increased its commitment to Transit by adding six new buses to Harford Transit's fleet; this will enable Harford Transit to better serve Harford County citizens. In 2009 Harford Transit transported 305,532 passengers. [Learn more about Harford Transit.](#)



Volunteer Connection**1st Annual Volunteer Expo**

Volunteer Connection provides personal service to potential volunteers who wish to share their time and talents. They work to match the skills and interests of volunteers with an agency/organization in need. Over 350 exciting volunteer positions are available and can be accessed at www.harfordcountymd.gov/volunteer.



In April 2009, the Department of Community Services' Volunteer Connection held the 1st Annual Volunteer Expo, designed to inform the community about volunteer opportunities throughout the county. Held at Patterson Mill Middle-High School, the event was an outstanding success. Over 60 organizations participated as vendors, and over 450 people attended to learn more about the opportunities available to them.

Commission for Women**1st Annual Women's Conference**

The Commission conducted a successful Women's Conference in March 2009, which featured leading women of Harford County. Nearly 200 people attended to hear topics relating to women and health, women and the economy, women and politics, etc.



PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Community Mediation

Ticket Referral Books

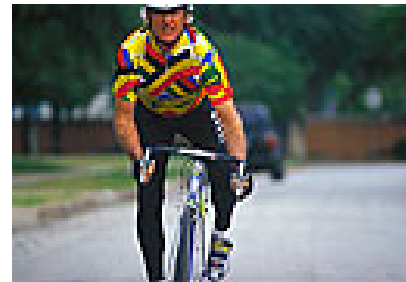
HCCMP partnered with Harford County Sheriff's Office to train the law enforcement road supervisors and administrative staff from the Harford County Sheriff's Office, the three municipal police departments and the Maryland State Police. The County's five law enforcement agencies respond to calls throughout the county and have contact with individuals who may not otherwise seek out alternatives to resolving conflicts. As a result, we now have a new, 24-hour site location for mediations in Havre de Grace.



Commuter Assistance

Clean Commute Month/Bike to Work Day 2009

As part of May as Clean Commute Month, Bike to Work Day 2009 was a huge success, engaging schools, businesses, government, municipalities, libraries and senior activity centers. New to the rally this year was the Green Pedal Essay Contest. This writing contest challenged K-5th grade students to write about how riding their bike helps to make the air cleaner. Nearly 700 entries were received. Margo Sybert, a 5th grader at Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School won the grand prize of a brand new bicycle, courtesy of Chesapeake Cycle & Sport, and the opportunity to ride with County Executive Craig in the bicycle parade. [Learn more about Commuter Assistance.](#)



Office of Drug Control Policy

Recovery Month

Celebrating September as national Recovery Month, Harford County Executive David Craig, along with the Office of Drug Control Policy, recognized six organizations that provided services in 2009 to our citizens to address substance abuse. The agencies included: Together Recovery Works (TRW); Mann House; Homecoming; Emmorton Psych; Addictions Connections Resources, Inc. (ACR); and Faith Activated Community Empowering Intervention Training (FACE-IT). Recovery Month recognizes the impact that real people and real stories have on recovery, and celebrates those who have worked to advance the treatment and recovery landscape.



Human Relations Commission

Honoring Joseph Bond

In June 2009 the Harford County Human Relations Commission purchased, installed and dedicated a public bench in honor and memory of Harford County Humanitarian Joseph Bond.



In January 2009 the Commission sponsored the annual Joseph Bond/Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards Breakfast. This year, the Commission held an essay contest for high school students; 31 students representing 8 of the area high schools responded. Scholarship money was donated by Harford Community College, the Injured Workers Insurance Fund, and the Department of Community Services.

Youth Commission

Meeting the Needs of Harford County Youth

From 2005 to 2007, there were 67,000 children under the age of 19 living in Harford County, comprising 28% of the total population.

In late 2008, Harford County Executive David R. Craig announced plans for the re-establishment of a Youth Commission. The re-establishment of the commission follows a recent series of meetings coordinated by the YMCA of Harford County that brought youth program providers and organizers together to discuss the state of Harford County's youth.



The Youth Commission will help advise the County Executive and other county officials on the overall status of Harford County's youth population, and make recommendations on how the county can better provide for youth needs. The Youth Commission will also apply for grants from the state, county or federal government, as well as outside foundations and other entities allowed by law to support their mission and purpose. The Commission will meet monthly and will serve as a better line of communication between government and non-profit agencies and the general public through use of modern technology (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

The Commission is headed out of the Department of Community Services and has, to date, held two meetings and is working on a marketing campaign, including creating a logo, web site, and brochure. For more information, email youth@harfordcountymd.gov.

DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS AND IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

Community Development

Washington Court

\$1.5 million in Neighborhood Conservation Initiative (NCI) funds was awarded to Harford County by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and nearly \$300,000 in CDBG-R funds was awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development toward the demolition of Washington Court, blighted former military housing in Edgewood. The demolition is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009 and is a significant, positive step towards improving this community. Development of the property into affordable senior housing and market-rate housing by Shelter Development is expected to follow as the economy improves.



Office of Drug Control Policy

Faith Based and Community Resource Fair

The 8th Annual Fair drew over 500 people, including more than 80 non-profit exhibitors. Nearly 60 people, representing 12 different churches, gathered for the Faith Partner's Brunch to discuss substance abuse prevention and intervention. This highly anticipated event grows in popularity and attendance each year and includes vendors and visitors from in and around Harford County. [Learn more about the Office of Drug Control Policy.](#)



Office of Drug Control Policy

Social Norming Campaign

In 2009, 40 individuals were trained in "Social Norming," a proven program used to change youth behavior relating to drugs and alcohol. Social Norming was started in two schools in Harford County; one public, one private. Over 2,000 students are involved in this ongoing campaign.



KEEPING OUR CITIZENS INFORMED

Community Development

The Data Page

Your Best Source for Current Demographic Information for Grant Writing



The Data Page, located at www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/Stimulus/data.cfm, is a one-stop data resource geared for grant writers to access valuable data on Harford County. The web page contains a county map segmented into cities and towns. This interactive tool allows the user to “hyper-link” down to zip-code specific data, such as (but not limited to) area public schools, elected officials, population size, education, marital information, income and poverty levels, and much more. The site also contains county-wide information within the data categories as well as comparison to other counties, the state, and nation. This is a great resource for everyone – grant writers, non-profits, service providers, community groups and the general public.

Community Development

The Grant Writer’s Page

In response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), the Department of Community Services created the Grant Writer’s Page to be an inclusive source for grant writers looking for funding resources, announcements of new funding available and useful links to area grant resources. Created in January 2009, the Department of Community Services works daily to keep the data up-to-date and relevant for Harford County citizens and those looking for grant-related information.



MAKING FUNDING AVAILABLE

STABILIZING NEIGHBORHOODS, PROVIDING QUALITY OF LIFE, SERVING AT-RISK POPULATIONS...



The Harford County Department of Community Services provided nearly **\$9.9 million** in local, state and federal funding for a variety of services: senior services; at-risk youth; drug prevention programs; low-income and homeless services; disabilities; and transportation.



In FY2009 the Department of Community Services provided:

- Over **\$1.4 million** toward Senior Services – helping fund programs from caregiver support, cultural arts and senior activity center classes to senior health insurance, Medicaid waiver and nutrition.
- Over **\$420,000** in funding programs for At-Risk Youth, including the Boys & Girls Clubs, Wilson Center, Urban Impact, Kids C.A.N. and Foster Care, to name just a few.
- Over **\$1 million** in Drug Prevention Program funding, including Anti-Gang Strategy, Drug Courts, CSAFE and Prevention Services.
- Over **\$3 million** for Low-Income and Homeless services. This funding helped area non-profits like Open Doors, Department of Social Services, Harford Family House, SARC, Alliance, FCCAU and Homecoming.
- Over **\$95,000** in Disability-related services, providing funding for the Arc of Harford County and Department of Social Services (In-Home Aid).
- Nearly **\$300,000** in Community Program funding for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Emergency Food Assistance and Ridesharing programs.
- Over **\$3.5 million** in Transportation funding, covering such programs and activities as SSTAP, Americans with Disabilities, and New Freedom.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

2009 PROGRAM FUNDING

Programs and Services	Local Funding	State Funding	Federal Funding	Total Funding
Senior Services	255,678	462,211	701,320	1,419,209
Youth and Drug Prevention Programs	427,910	727,715	292,999	1,448,624
Disabled, Low-Income and Homeless Programs	1,001,584	140,860	2,029,679	3,172,123
Community Programs	57,570	17,613	219,150	294,333
Transportation	846,645	796,035	1,878,753	3,521,433
Total Funding	2,589,387	2,144,434	5,121,901	9,855,722

To learn more about how we are continuously serving our community, visit us at www.harfordcountymd.gov/services.

While you're there, JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST to stay informed about special events, important news, services available, and much more.



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